

Moral Philosophy and Sex

There are three moral approaches to sexuality that form the way modern people view premarital sex: the traditional, the modern and the post-modern.

1) The traditional view is that sex is for marriage. This is the approach of most cultures that seek to hold family and society together. It defines the standard and says: live by it always.

2) The modernist approach led to the changes in sexual morality in the 20th century. It holds that no objective truth applies across time or culture. Sexual morality is a personal choice. It says: define your own standards and live them.

3) The post-modernist view is 21st century. It holds that truth and morality *don't matter*. It says: there are no standards. Be whoever you are today. Tomorrow, be whatever you have become. Who cares anyway?

Most teens today live in a confusion of all three views. Most teen movies mock the first and promote the others.

Katy Perry's song lyrics consistently exemplify post-modernist thought. Her latest song, Teenage Dream, says, "Let's go all the way tonight – no regrets... Don't ever look back."

Virginity Movies

Only a fool would deny hormones play a role in the lives of teens. Not surprisingly, the film industry understands this and has recently released two more movies about losing your virginity: *Easy A* and *The Virginity Hit*. This genre of films deals with teens losing their virginity through a set of (often true) stereotypical characters.

Traditional Monsters and Tarts

Some teens lose their virginity against their will via rape (or date-rape.) A film about this is normally styled as a "candid drama." The boys are monsters. The girls are either foolish tarts *or* innocent victims.

Modernist Brainless and Confused

A second common plot covers those who lose it through stupidity – oops! Normally these are comedies. The boys have no brains, just hormones. The girls are struggling with their feelings and cannot settle on any true values. When do you "give in" in a totally relativist culture? Usually, "it" just happens at the end of the movie.

Modernist Romeo and Juliet

Many films are about those who lose their virginity with someone "they love." These films are often "romantic

comedies" that put characters in odd circumstances – often built around "near misses" with the wrong partner.

Post-modern Problem Solvers

Today there are more films that treat virginity as a problem, such as the recently released *Easy A* (another "hilarious comedy.") *Easy A* is about boys who don't like being known as virgins. They pay a girl to say she slept with them. (She is herself a virgin.) It all unravels and the girl is left looking at a new boy in the school and thinking he should be her first.

Another post-modern theme is the girl planning how to lose her v-card. With



whom isn't the question, rather how and when? One approach is to get drunk and have sex with whomever. "I won't remember it and I can always blame it on having been drunk." A second approach is to plan it quite thoroughly: when, where, how, what to wear, hairstyles, nails... Love is not a factor. The goal is to make it an occasion to remember.

The only stereotypes you don't see in Hollywood are the well-formed happy young man and woman who handle their sexuality with confidence and dignity. That is still the reality for many youth and is the only smart and responsible approach.

Interestingly, of high school youth, [92%](#) still think virginity is right for their age.



VOCABULARY

V-Card (n.) One's virginity card. If you have your own card, you're still a virgin.

Card collector (n.) Someone who owns at least two other people's v-cards.

The [percentage](#) of American teens having had sexual intercourse peaked in 1991 at 54%. It declined to 46% by 2001. Promiscuity (four or more partners) also declined in the same period from 18.7% to 14.2%. Both statistics have been stable since 2001.

iPray

Meeting the Challenge of Personal Prayer

Prayer can revolutionize your life. It gives strength to the weak, wisdom to the fool, joy to the sorrowful and comfort to the oppressed. Most importantly, it gives us a living relationship with God.

Unfortunately, most youth and many adults struggle to have consistent and effective personal prayer. We know we should pray but we regularly fail to do it. Not knowing how, we never start. Sometimes we struggle because we are distracted by other things. Although we set apart 15 minutes to pray, we spend it mostly flitting from one thought to another. We set apart the time – but we just don't pray much. Sometimes we are just bored by doing the same thing over and over, so we quit before we begin!

Over the past year Kairos has developed a new aid for prayer called **iPray**. It has just been released. for purchase.

iPray helps you actually pray for 15 minutes – to sing praise, pray the psalms, give thanks, repent, and intercede – and to do it without distraction.

iPray is simple. It provides you with a booklet and an MP3 player. The booklet has the words to the songs and psalms in it. The MP3 player has 31 days of prayer

pre-loaded on it. You simply press a button and the audio starts with a statement of the day's theme. For example, the theme for Day Ten is: "God is gracious."

You then sing along to "Amazing Grace" and chant Psalm 103, "the Lord is gracious and merciful." The genius of **iPray** is what comes next. **iPray** acts like a personal prayer coach. It prompts you to give thanks for one way God has been gracious to you recently and then gives you ten seconds to do it. So you do! Then it prompts you to give thanks for God's saving grace. Again you have ten seconds in which to do so.



It uses the same approach to help you intercede for all the people you know you should: parents, friends, workmates, government officials and many others.

iPray works well because it engages your eyes, your ears and your mind on one thing. When they all work together, they help you keep your focus.

Other uses?

Families can struggle with family prayer just because they have no format that works. Here again **iPray** can help. Just order extra booklets so the whole family can sing and pray together.

In our work with youth we see something quite consistently. Youth who pray, believe,

but youth who believe often struggle with prayer. Helping youth develop the habit of prayer is key to doing good youth work.

Kairos developed

iPray knowing the need among youth but we have found that **iPray** helps adults as well.

How much does it cost?

The total cost for **iPray** – including the MP3 player, prayer booklet, headphones and USB recharging cable – is \$34.99 plus shipping and handling. The price drops when you purchase more for your family or friends. **iPray** can be purchased for as little as **\$22.99** when you purchase four or more.

Or you can purchase the digital version of **iPray** for \$21.99 and load it onto your own MP3 player (and we will send you the booklet in the mail.)

For a sample day of prayer click here:

http://www.kairos-na.org/Pray_it_Yourself_Demo

To purchase **iPray** click here:

<http://kairos-na.org/iPray>

...and remember, every **iPray** you purchase helps support our Kairos work.



The iPray MP3 player

Live **iPray** sales events are being planned now. They will be held in:

Lansing, at the Work of Christ meeting on Sunday October 17th

Ann Arbor, at the Word of Life meeting on Sunday November 21st